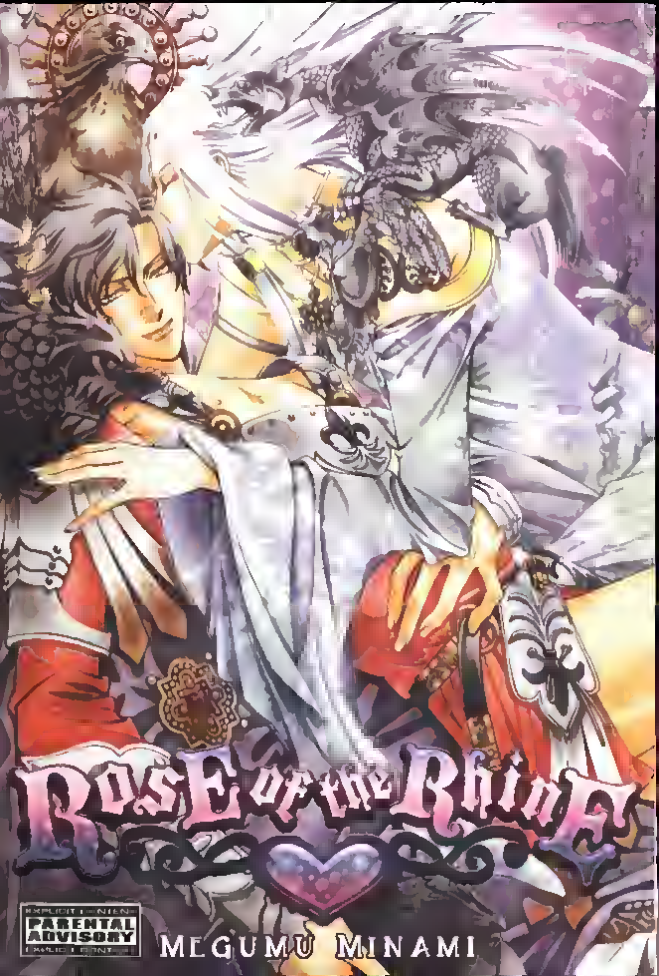
Rose of the Rhine
EXPLICIT CONTENT
PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT CONTENT
MEGUMU MINAMI

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THERE ONCE WAS A KING.
A LONG, LONG TIME AGO, IN A COUNTRY NAMED BERN.
BERN
READY FOR HIS MAJESTY DIETLEB
AS YOU WISH, LORD HILDEBRAND.
A LETTER HAS ARRIVED FROM PRINCESS KRIEMHILD FROM RHINELAND
ROSE OF THE RHINE
HIS GLORIOUS NAME WAS...

I OWN A MAGNIFICENT ROSE GARDEN.
MY ROSE GARDEN IS SURROUNDED BY SILK THREADS INSTEAD OF A STONE WALL.
I SHALL DECLARE THAT NO HERO CAN EVER ENTER MY ROSE GARDEN.
I KNOW THIS BECAUSE THE KNIGHTS OF RHINELAND AND PRINCE SIEGFRIED OF NIEDLAND, MY FIANCÉ, AND ALSO THE MOST CELEBRATED HERO GUARDS MY ROSE GARDEN.
"I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST A DUEL BETWEEN KING DIETRICH AND PRINCE SIEGFRIED."
"THE CHAMPION SHALL RECEIVE A CROWN OF ROSES AND A KISS."
IN OTHER WORDS, PRINCE SIEGFRIED CHALLENGED OUR KING TO A DUEL.
WOW, THAT REALLY ANGERS ME!
IT'S DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHAT WOMEN THINK.
IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT KRIEMHILD'S KISS.
IN MY OPINION, IT'S NOT WORTH GETTING MY SKULL CRACKED IN HALF FOR A CROWN OF ROSES AND A KISS

DIETRICH VON BERN
"KING DIETRICH, RULER OF BERN"
ROSE OF THE RHINE

HIS MAJESTY IS GETTING A BIT REBELLIOUS THESE DAYS
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE SAID THAT LORD HILDEBRAND IS HIS ADVISOR.
I WANT YOU TO STOP TREATING ME LIKE A CHILD
YOU'RE ALWAYS EITHER GIVING ME AN EARFUL OR SCOLDING ME.
AS YOU WISH
SEE. NOW HE'S MAD
GO AHEAD AND STAY HERE SO YOU CAN PROTECT THAT HEAD OF YOURS.
THEY'RE FIGHTING

IT'S DEFINITELY NOT WORTH IT IF I WANT A KISS FROM A CUTE GIRL, I'M SURE I CAN FIND SOMEONE
AM I SUPPOSED TO GET INJURED SO KRIEMHILD CAN GET TO KNOW HER FIANCÉ BETTER?
I BET SHE'S DOING THIS SO SHE CAN MAKE SURE HER FIANCÉ IS ACTUALLY BRAVE AND CHIVALROUS.
YOU CAN ONLY FIND ONE? THAT'S PRETTY SAD
SIEGFRIED OF NIEDLAND IS ONE OF THE MOST CELEBRATED HEROES OF OUR TIME.
HILDEBRAND
HE IS SOMEONE YOU WILL HAVE TO FACE, IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER IN THE FUTURE.
BUT PEOPLE MIGHT THINK YOU COWERED AGAINST SIEGFRIED
...
I TOLD YOU, DUELING IS A PART OF BEING KING.
AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT ME GETTING HURT?
MY LORD, YOU MUST GO TO RHINELAND

BUT PEOPLE ONLY BELIEVE WHAT THEY SEE AND HEAR.
THEY WILL BADMOUTH HIS MAJESTY ASSUMING THAT HE DIDN'T ACCEPT THE DUEL BECAUSE HE'S A COWARD. THEY WON'T STOP TO THINK THAT HIS MAJESTY HAS HIS OWN WAY OF DOING THINGS.
LORD HILDEBRAND
IN THAT SENSE, IT'S TRUE THAT HIS MAJESTY MAY NO LONGER NEED ME AS HIS ADVISOR.
IT'S ALSO PROTECTING HIS MAJESTY HIMSELF...
THE ONLY THING THAT IS PROTECTING BERN IS THE REPUTATION OF HIS MAJESTY...
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO?
TO RHINELAND
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
PLUS, I DON'T WANT PEOPLE BADMOUTHING OUR KING.
THAT'S RECKLESS!
FIGHT .. WITH SIEGFRIED THE INVINCIBLE?
IF THE KING'S KNIGHT WINS, IT WON'T AFFECT HIS MAJESTY'S REPUTATION, RIGHT?
EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT YOU'RE ALWAYS WORKING FOR HIS MAJESTY'S BEST INTERESTS
HOW COULD HIS MAJESTY SAY THAT YOU AREN'T WORRIED ABOUT HIM?
...
DIETLEIP
LORD HILDEBRAND
HIS MAJESTY HAS GROWN UP
HE'S NOT SWAYED BY CUSTOMS, AND HE POSSESSES THE ABILITY TO JUDGE THINGS CORRECTLY ON HIS OWN
IT'S AMAZING THAT HE CAN DO THAT
HIS MAJESTY IS TRYING TO AVOID ANY UNNECESSARY BATTLES
IT'S A KNIGHT'S CODE TO FIGHT AND PROTECT THEIR QUEENS AND MAIDENS
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT EVERY WOMAN IS WORTHY

...JUST LEFT
MY LORD! LORD HILDEBRAND HAS...
HE WAS SAYING, HIS MAJESTY NO LONGER NEEDS ME..."
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? HE'S THE ONE WHO LEFT...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
I GUESS WE'RE GOING TO RHINELAND
LORD HILDEBRAND MIGHT DIE.
HE'S GOING TO FIGHT SIEGFRIED HIMSELF
EVEN SO...
LORD HILDEBRAND!
...
N... NOTHING.
EXCUSE ME?
MY LORD, ARE YOU SURE?
I TOTALLY UNERSTAND
HE JUST WANTS LORD HILDEBRAND TO PAY ATTENTION TO HIM
OH, HIS MAJESTY'S DISHING IT OUT
IS THE ONLY THING HE'S WORRIED ABOUT, MY REPUTATION?

BUT LOOK.
THAT IS WHAT AN HONORABLE KNIGHT WOULD DO
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU CAN GET HER BACK BY WINNING THE DUEL.
DON'T DO ANYTHING TO EMBARRASS THE KNIGHTS OF BERN
I CAME BECAUSE YOU GOT ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY AND THOUGHT IT WOULD BE GREAT IF WE...
I DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY FOR A FEW ROSES.
THE KING HIMSELF IS EMBARRASSING BERN.
I TOLD YOU TO STOP TREATING ME LIKE A CHILD.
MY LORD! YOU MUST BE POLITE TO WOMEN!

RHINELAND
SHE'S A BEAUTY BUT YOU CAN TELL SHE'S STUCK UP FROM JUST LOOKING AT HER
THAT'S KRIEMHILD
ACCORDING TO LORE AND LEGENDS, YOU ARE THE MOST AMAZING HERO
LOOK AT HOW FLASHY SHE'S DRESSED.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR ARRIVAL.
WELCOME, KING DIETRICH OF BERN
NO SURPRISE THERE. IT'S POSSIBLE THIS MAY DEVELOP INTO AN ALL-OUT WAR TO AVENGE ANY FALLEN DUELISTS
SHE WASN'T VERY WELL LIKED, EVEN IN HER OWN CASTLE TOWN
WATCH WHAT YOU SAY
SO HAS SIEGFRIED

THEY'RE PROBABLY THE TWO MOST CELEBRATED HEROES OF OUR TIME.
THIS IS NERVE RACKING...
DIETRICH OF BERN AND SIEGFRIED OF NIEDLAND
YOU MUST BE PRINCE SIEGFRIED?
THAT'S PRETTY AMAZING.
LOOKS LIKE OUR KING ISN'T FAZED
YOU'RE SPOILING YOUR FIANCÉ TOO MUCH. YOU NEED TO PUT HER IN HER PLACE.
HE PROBABLY WANTS TO BE THE "HERO WITH THE BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN".
GUESS HE'S OKAY IF A WOMAN'S STUCK UP, AS LONG AS SHE'S BEAUTIFUL.
ALTHOUGH OUR MAJESTY DOESN'T HAVE A LOVER YET...
MANY KNIGHTS MAY LOSE THEIR LIVES DUE TO HER SELFISH DEMANDS.
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.
I TRUST HE WILL FIND A WORTHY PARTNER.
COUGH.
MEANING, I CAME BECAUSE...
YOU UNDERESTIMATED MY KNIGHTS AND ME.
THEY'RE STILL GOING AT IT
THEY'RE STILL FIGHTING?
...
WE CAME TO DEFEAT YOUR KNIGHTS AND PROVE YOU WRONG.
ACTUALLY IT WAS FOR LORD HILDEBRAND
SHH!
WHO'S GOING TO DEFEAT ME?
SIEGFRIED!

HILDEBRAND IS ALWAYS RUDE TOWARDS WOMEN
BROTHER GUNTHER!
I'LL AVENGE YOUR HONOR IN THE DUEL
AND HE'S THE ONE WHO TOLD US TO SETTLE IT IN THE DUEL
YOU'LL CHANGE YOUR OPINION SOON ENOUGH!
THEY'RE GOING TO THINK OUR COUNTRY IS FULL OF ILL MANNERED PEOPLE.
LORD HILDEBRAND
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
KNIGHTS OF RHINELAND.
YOUR NAME WAS HARKEN
JEEZ, GUESS IF THE KING IS ILL MANNERED SO ARE HIS KNIGHTS
THAT'S ALL WE CAN STAND!
DAMN IT!
NO! WE'LL SETTLE THE SCORE IN THE DUEL!
I KNOW IT'S TRUE BUT IT ANGERS ME WHEN SOMEONE ACTUALLY SAYS IT

ARE YOU LORD HILDEBRAND, KING DIETRICH'S MEISTER?
HOW COULD HE...? I GRINDED IT INTO HIM TO BE POLITE...
WHAT--DO YOU MEAN--SURPRISINGLY
HE'S SURPRISINGLY LEVELHEADED
PRINCESS KRIEMHILD
WATCH WHAT YOU SAY!
AS FAR AS I CAN TELL, YOUR KING IS NO MATCH FOR MY SIEGFRIED.
UH-OH
LORD HILDEBRAND SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH HER POLITELY...
JUST YOU WATCH!
YOU THINK TOO HIGHLY OF YOUR FIANCÉ!

I DREAMT LAST NIGHT THAT I WAS FIGHTING A DEMON.
THE DEMON MUST HAVE BEEN ME.
I'LL EAT YOU ALIVE!
I WON.
BUT
WINNER! LORD ECKHART OF BERN!
FOR THE HONOR OF BERN!
WE SHALL BE VICTORIOUS!
わっ
わっ
GOOD LUCK!
HE DOESN'T OUTRIGHT SAY IT BUT HE'S ALL FOR IT
HMPH!
FIRST UP!
THIRD UP!
WHAT? MY OPPONENT IS A PUNY GUY LIKE YOU?
IT'S UNBELIEVABLE, MY FELLOW KNIGHTS LOST TO YOUR...
I WILL...
ACTUALLY
ME?
ECKHART, WHAT ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU REALLY INTO THIS?
SECOND UP!
HEH HEH
WINNER! LORD WOLFHART OF BERN!
GOOD JOB!

...
WELL DONE
WE'D RATHER GET A KISS FROM OUR KING INSTEAD
WHAT...?
I SHALL FIGHT FOR MY LORD'S HONOR
I PROMISED MY SISTER THAT I WOULD AVENGE HER HONOR.
2ND IN COMMAND!
PRINCE GUNTHER VERSUS LORD HILDERRANDI
OUR LOYALTY WILL BE TESTED IN THIS BATTLE.
I THEN...
WILL NOT LOSE!

HE'S FAST, I DIDN'T SEE HIM STRIKE...
WINNER! LORD DIETLEIP OF BERN!
HAH HAH WE GOT THEM BACK GOOD
DIETLEIP MAY LOOK NON THREATENING. BUT HE'S ACTUALLY THE STRONGEST ONE OUT OF ALL OF US.
I WILL DEFEAT YOU WITH ONE STRIKE...
AND SHUT YOUR BLABBERING HOLE.
WE DON'T WANT A KISS FROM A WOMAN WHO PUTS KNIGHTS IN HARM'S WAY JUST FOR HER AMUSEMENT
THE CHAMPIONS SHALL RECEIVE A CROWN OF ROSES AND A KISS FROM ME.
WE WON EVERY DUEL IN THE FIRST ROUND.
I MUST FULFILL MY PROMISE.

ARE YOU TWO STILL FIGHTING?
N... NO... I'M FINE...
IT'S GOING TO GET UGLY LATER.
I THINK WE'VE GOTTEN UNDER HER SKIN
YOU'D RATHER GET A KISS FROM A MAN THAN ME?
WHAT THE...?
WHO IS GOING TO FIGHT ME?
THE LAST KNIGHT...
SIEGFRIED THE INVINCIBLE
GH.
WINNER! LORD HILDEBRAND!
WHY DON'T YOU GET A KISS FROM HIS MAJESTY TOO?
I DO NOT NEED YOUR KISS EITHER!

RUSTLE
WHAT SHOULD I DO
I WANT MY OPPONENT TO BE HUMAN
IT'S NOT THAT EASY I CAN'T CONTROL WHEN I CAN AND CAN'T USE IT
YOU CAN DO IT
DIETLEIP
HE MUST HAVE FOLLOWED ME BECAUSE HE WAS WORRIED
!
DID I RAISE YOU TO BE A COWARD?
DO YOU EXPECT ME TO ACCEPT PEOPLE BADMOUTHING YOU?
IS THIS THE RESULT OF MY TEACHING AND GUIDANCE?
WHAT?
MY LORD

HE'S TRYING TO SHOW OFF
PERV
LOOK AT SIEGFRIED SWINGING HIS SWORD
IS HE COWERING FROM ME?
I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE THAT THE FAMED KING OF BERN IS A COWARD
BY THE WAY, WHERE'S HIS MAJESTY?
DID YOU HEAR HIM, MY LORD?
HE CALLED YOU A COWARD
ONLY AN IDIOT WOULD FIGHT HIM
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN YOU ALSO HAVE POWERS BEYOND ANY HUMAN?
HE BECAME INVINCIBLE EVER SINCE HE WAS DOUSED IN DRAGON BLOOD!
YOU KNOW HOW SURPRISED I WAS, WHEN I WAS TOLD THE TRUTH YESTERDAY?
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!
YOU NEED TO SHUT HIM UP
GOD BLESSED YOU WITH THAT POWER. YOU WERE BORN TO BE A HERO
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT?

...
WHY SHOULD I SERVE YOU?
-ACTING THE WAY YOU TALK?
DAMN IT!
HILDEBRAND?
..

DO YOU THINK I'M SERVING YOU AS AN ADVISOR BECAUSE I HAVE TO?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS SAYING...
ARE YOU SAYING YOU NO LONGER WANT TO SERVE ME?
-TO BE LECTURED BY AN ADVISOR!
I DON'T NEED--
YOU SHOULD JUST DO AS I SAY!

MY LORD,
PLEASE LET OUT YOUR ANGER IN THE ROSE GARDEN.
OUT OF ALL PEOPLE, LORD HILDEBRAND?
SAY NO MORE-
NO OTHER KNIGHT CARES MORE ABOUT YOU!
--OR ELSE YOU MIGHT END UP LIKE HILDEBRAND.
THAT WAS ALSO LORD HILDEBRAND'S WISH...

...!
LORD HILDEBRAND!
HILDEBRAND!!
HOW COULD YOU DO THIS, MY LORD?!
THIS CAN'T BE.
HE'S DEAD

YOU SHALL FALL VICTIM TO MY SWORD, ECKESACHS!
ALTHOUGH HE'S MAD AT THE WRONG PERSON. HE'S THE ONE WHO KILLED LORD HILDEBRAND
WE FINALLY MANAGED TO GET OUR LORD IN THE DUEL.
TELL ME ABOUT IT
SLIP!
M... WHAT THE...?
I'M HERE TO OBLIGE.
YOU'RE FINALLY HERE, DIETRICH
MY SWORD, BALMUNG HAS BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
-WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU REALLY MAKE ME ANGRY
WATCH-
YOUR ARMOR WILL BE COVERED IN YOUR BLOOD SIEGFRIED..
-WITH YOUR DEATH, SIEGFRIED!
I SHALL AVENGE HILDEBRAND'S DEATH-

THAT IS THE SECRET TO SIEGFRIED'S INVINCIBILITY
IT LOOKS LIKE OUR LORD'S SWORD ISN'T TOUCHING SIEGFRIED'S BODY...
BUT FROM WATCHING THE BATTLE
I COULDN'T HAVE WISHED FOR A BETTER DUEL.
IT'S SUCH AN AMAZING FIGHT...
WE CAN'T BEAR TO WATCH A HERO SUCH HAS KING BERN LOSE HIS LIFE!
PRINCESS KRIEMHILD PLEASE MAKE THEM STOP!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
HE DID IT!
?
!
PLUS, SIEGFRIED WON'T DIE.
HE'S INVINCIBLE.
IT MUST BE TRUE...
MY SWORD GLIDES OFF SIEGFRIED'S BODY...
TSK....
WHO'S WINNING?
YES, I'M FINE.
ARE YOU OKAY?
LORD HILDEBRAND
I HOPE HE LET'S OUT ALL HIS ANGER HERE.
I'M GLAD DIETLEIP NOTICED ME SIGNALING TO HIM.
AS DO I. OUR LORD IS ESPECIALLY STRONG WHEN HE'S ANGRY

LORD HILDEBRAND!
SIEGFRIED IS GAINING MOMENTUM!
ホホホ
THAT'S SIEGFRIED, THE VALIANT!
LOOK, LADIES!
!
CALL HIM A COWARD OR SOMETHING...
SAY SOMETHING THAT WILL ANGER OUR LORD! HURRY!
HE HAS THE "SKIN OF A DRAGON"!
NO SWORD CAN PENETRATE HIS SKIN. HIS SKIN BECAME HARD AS SCALES EVER SINCE HE WAS DOUSED IN DRAGON BLOOD!
THE SWORD BOUNCED OFF OF HIM...
AAH HOW COULD THIS BE?!
I HAVE A PLAN.
DO NOT WORRY.
THEN OUR LORD HAS NO CHANCE OF WINNING!
HILDEBRAND..
BUT WE ALREADY LOST LORD HILDEBRAND...
TAKE THIS DIETRICH!
AK.
KRIEMHILD!
SIEGFRIED! I WILL BESTOW UPON YOU A KISS IF YOU WIN!

A ROSE BLOOMS—
—IN MY HEART..
WHOA!!
ARE YOU... HUMAN?
PERHAPS HOW ABOUT YOU?
I'LL MELT OFF YOUR SKIN WITH MY BREATH!
WH
LD ANYONE KNOW
THIS IS OUR RD IS THE MOST!
HE S BREATHING FIRE!
LORD HILDERRAND! DID YOU SEE THAT?
OUR LORD'S POWER!
"DRAGON S BREATH"!

HE'S BEYOND FURIOUS!
AAAAH!
KNIGHTS, WOMEN, THEY ALL MUST DIE..
HE'S THE ONE WHO KILLED LORD HILDEBRAND TOO!
RUN!
IT IS MY TRIBUTE TO HILDEBRAND
PRINCESS CREAMHILT! AT THIS RATE PRINCE SIEGFRIED WILL BE.. !
OUR LORD'S SWORD IS PENETRATING HIS SKIN!
SIEGFRIED'S SKIN MUST HAVE SOFTENED FROM THE HEAT!
SZAH
YOU MUSTN'T! OUR LORD HAS LOST HIS SENSES IN RAGE!
HA
LORD HILDEBRAND! THIS IS NO TIME TO BE SPACING OUT!
PRINCESS CREAMHILT
YOU'RE BOTH CHAMPIONS! THAT SHOULD SATISFY BOTH OF YOU!
STOP!
DIE, SIEGFRIED
!!
I PLAN TO KILL EVERYONE IN THIS COUNTRY NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU PLEA.

!!
...NN.
FORGIVE ME, I...
HILDE... BRAND..?
IS IT REALLY YOU?

I DON'T THINK HE NEEDS ONE EITHER.
HE HAS SOMEONE ELSE TO KISS.
I'M NO LONGER A CHILD.
I DON'T NEED AN ADVISOR.
BUT YOU—
—MUST NOT LEAVE MY SIDE.
— UNDERSTAND?
I'M GLAD—
—YOU'RE ALL RIGHT
HILDEBRAND!
I SHALL BESTOW UPON YOU A KISS
MIGHTY KING DIETRICH.

KING DIETRICH!
YOUR MAJESTY!
FIRST ADVENTURE
BY THE WAY LORD HILDEBRAND
SIGH...
HE HASN'T CHANGED SINCE HIS FIRST JOURNEY
HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHERE HE'S GOING AND HE JUST TOOK OFF
WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE?
HE'S ON THE BEST HORSE NO ONE CAN CATCH UP
ダーッ
EVEN IF WE TRY TO KEEP UP WITH HIM...
WAIT FOR US
RESULT: LOST
OH BOY
WHO GOT THE MOST OUT OF THIS?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
SHE'LL BE FINE SHE STILL HAS SIEGFRIED
WHO DO YOU THINK WAS THE BIGGEST FOOL THIS TIME?
PROBABLY PRINCESS KRIEMHILD SHE WAS TURNED DOWN BY ALL OF US.
HSSS
SORRY
SIGH...
I WONDER HOW LONG THEY'RE GOING TO KEEP KISSING?
THE END

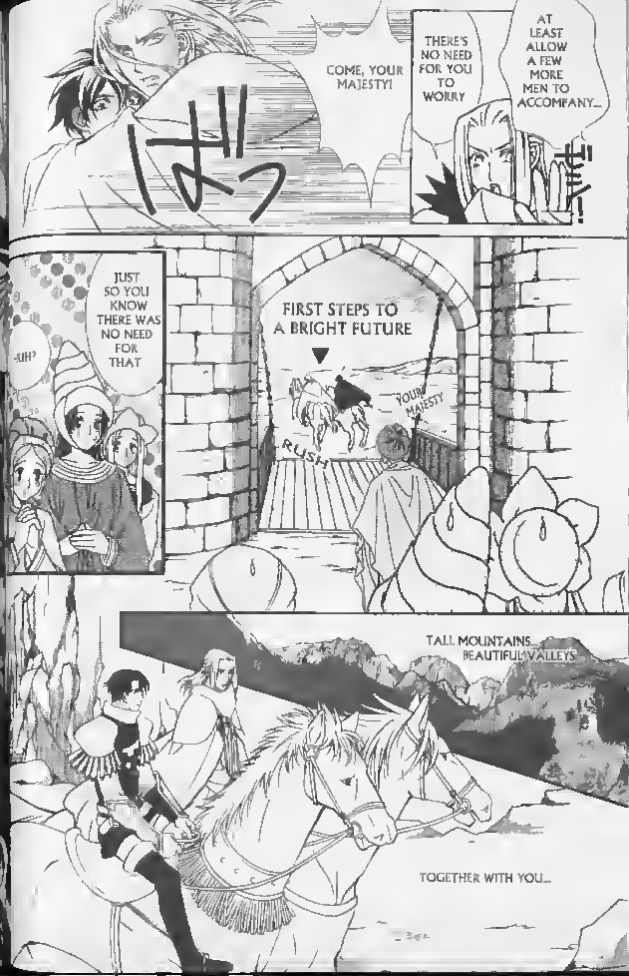
YOUR MAJESTY!
AT THE TIME, DIETRICH DID NOT KNOW ABOUT ANY ADVENTURES.
TERRIBLE THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD!
IF YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO SAY, GREAT...
ARE YOU HERE TO LECTURE ME AGAIN?
HILDERRAND
JUST HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO STAY IN YOUR CASTLE?
WE COULDN'T HAVE ASKED FOR A BETTER OPPONENT FOR KING DIETRICH VON BERN'S FIRST JOURNEY
THE HEATHEN CHIROL HAS OVERTAKEN QUEEN VIRGINAL.
AND HE DEMANDS A BEAUTIFUL MAIDEN BE SACRIFICED EVERY YEAR.
GUESS WHAT I WANT MOST
HOW WAS OUR LORD ON HIS FIRST JOURNEY?
WELL...
FIRST ADVENTURE

HM...
ESPECIALLY TO LORD HILDEBRAND
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU SHOULD SAY OUT LOUD
THAT'S TRUE BUT...
HE HAS A POINT BUT..
FINE.
OH NO!
WE MUST HELP HIM.
THIS IS BAD! LORD HILDEBRAND IS ANGRY!
DO AS YOU WISH?
HE WALKED OFF
YOUR MAJESTY

...BUT...
I NEVER FOUGHT BEFORE
HEATHEN OR CHRISTIAN..
くルいっ
COME!
IT IS TIME THAT ALL OF THE LANDS LEARN OF THE NAME, DIETRICH VON BERN, THE HERO KING OF BERN!
YOU MUST RESCUE THE QUEEN
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO GET OUT OF GOING ON A JOURNEY?
W WAIT
ズル
I TAUGHT YOU HOW YOU FIGHT!
ズル
THE PRAISES OF ALL THE MAIDENS
YOU'LL GET THE THING YOU DESIRE MOST
I'M ALREADY SURROUNDED BY MAIDENS SO I'M FINE..
EH?
...
THAT IS SO TRIVIAL...

THE OUTSIDE WORLD IS IN DESPAIR AND THE PEOPLE ARE IN SORROW BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
I CAN HEAR THE SNIDE COMMENTS BEING MUTTERED IN THERE, HILDEBRAND
BUT IT'S NOT TOO LATE.
COME, TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD
THIS WILL BE KING DIETRICH VON BERN'S FIRST STEPS TO A BRIGHT FUTURE...
HIS MAJESTY IS STILL TOO YOUNG!
I SEE. WELL IF YOU GUYS SAY SO...
WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR JOURNEYS, MY LORD.
HILDEBRAND, THE WOMEN ARE ASKING ME TO TELL THEM ABOUT A JOURNEY
HILDEBRAND!
THIS IS FOR LORD HILDEBRAND
AND ALSO FOR HIS MAJESTY
MY DEAR KING
S... SO... I WILL ALLOW YOU TO ACCOMPANY ME ON MY JOURNEY

HMH HMH HMH
YOU'LL KNOW SOON ENOUGH
IS THIS WHAT A JOURNEY IS SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE?
GOD!
SILENCE
GOD! PLEASE SAVE ME...
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN THE RIGHT PLACE FOR YOUR FIRST ADVENTURE.
W... WHAT THE..? IT'S COMING FROM DEEP IN THE FOREST...
WHY MUST I DIE SUCH A TERRIBLE DEATH?
OKAY
I WILL CHECK IT OUT
PLEASE WAIT HERE.


COME, YOUR MAJESTY!
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO WORRY
AT LEAST ALLOW A FEW MORE MEN TO ACCOMPANY...
-UH?
JUST SO YOU KNOW THERE WAS NO NEED FOR THAT
FIRST STEPS TO A BRIGHT FUTURE
YOUR MAJESTY
RUSH
TALL MOUNTAINS... BEAUTIFUL VALLEYS
TOGETHER WITH YOU...

AAH! SIR KNIGHT!
WHAT'S WRONG?
PRIDE
GOD HAS SPOKEN TO ME AND SAID THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE ME IS KING DIETRICH VON BERN
THEN YOU MUST BE FROM QUEEN VIRGINAL'S
I HAVE BEEN CHOSEN TO BECOME THE HEATHEN'S SACRIFICE
...
POP
BUT I HEAR HE'S BUSY SPENDING TIME WITH THE WOMEN OF HIS CASTLE.
I HEARD THAT?
THE HEATHEN IS LIKE A GORILLA...
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. YOU'RE SO GENTLE LOOKING.
DON'T WORRY I WILL SAVE YOU
TO MAKE UP FOR IT
EH? YOU..?
OH... HE'S FURIOUS...
DUG THEIR OWN GRAVE
YOU'LL LOSE YOUR HEAD FOR THAT!
I'M NOT GOING TO ASK PERMISSION FROM A MAIDEN KILLER.
YOU'RE FOUL
KNIGHT IN SILVER ARMOR, WHEN DID YOU GET PERMISSION TO ENTER THIS FOREST?
IF YOU SAVE ME, YOU WILL RECEIVE A LARGE TRACT OF LAND
MY FATHER IS A POWERFUL LORD.
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY
I AM A KNIGHT WHO'S FOUGHT IN COUNTLESS BATTLES.

AT QUEEN VIRGINIA'S CASTLE
THERE'S A BATTLE HAPPENING
YES!
ELF, GO CHECK IT OUT!
THAT'S WHERE THE SACRIFICIAL MAIDEN IS...
SIR KNIGHT!
DEAR GOD--
--PLEASE DON'T LET THIS NOBLE AND BEAUTIFUL KNIGHT BE DEFEATED BY THIS BARBARIC AND UGLY HEATHEN!
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
AKH!

AND I SHALL BE YOURS...
WAIT, ISN'T THIS STORY MORE LIKE "HILDEBRAND THE HERO"?
HERO: HILDEBRAND, MAIDEN: SACRIFICIAL MAIDEN
HMM... YOU'RE RIGHT...
NO, I DON'T NEED A WIFE.
STOP!
OH, THAT'S LORD HILDEBRAND FOR YA.
MY HEART BELONGS TO ONE PERSON ONLY
HOW DARE YOU TURN SOMETHING LIKE THAT DOWN?
EEK
JUST BECAUSE... ...YOU THINK YOU'RE GOOD LOOKING
TAKE THIS!
STOP IGNORING ME!

I WONDER HOW MUCH LONGER. I'M HUNGRY
KING BERN
IS EATING GRASS
HE'S COME TO SAVE US!
KING BERN?
WRONG
HURRAH HURRAH
AH
COULD IT BE?
HALT
H... HE'S FAST
W... WAIT A MINUTE!
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO LOSE YOUR HEAD?
MAIDEN!
FAIR MY ASS! THIS IS A BATTLE!
THAT'S HOT
YOU'RE LOOKING AWAY!
ARGH!
A KNIGHT IS FIGHTING TO SAVE ME.
OH, SIR ELF
ARE... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHAT IN GOD'S NAME IS...
PLEASE TELL HER MAJESTY EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE.
HIS SHIELD WAS SHATTERED SO I COULDN'T IDENTIFY HIS CREST.
WHO COULD IT BE?
OH! A KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR?

–KING DIETRICH VON BERN BY HIMSELF FOR THIS LONG.
THE SKY IS BLUE
DOZE
I LEFT MY LORD...
I THOUGHT HE DIDN'T CARE ABOUT MY MAJESTY'S TROUBLES..
END KING DIETRICH
N... NO!
MY LORD IS JUST YOUNG AND HASN'T FOUGHT ANY BATTLES YET
HE WILL BECOME THE MOST CELEBRATED HERO IN THE WORLD!
ON TOP OF THAT, SUCH FAVORITISM.
INDEED
HE WAS VERY CONCERNED
AH. HE LIED
HE WAS ALWAYS LIKE THAT...
YOUR MAJESTY WHERE ART THOU?
LORD HILDEBRAND WOULD DO ANY THING FOR HIS MAJESTY
AND HE'S SHOWING HIM OFF
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE AN AUDIENCE WITH MY LORD?
LYING DOWN
THEN HOW IS HIS MAJESTY SUPPOSED TO..?
YOU ENDED UP KILLING HIM?
WASN'T THE POINT OF THE JOURNEY TO "DEFEAT THE HEATHEN"?
YUP
NO/ SO HERE'S MORE TO THIS STORY
A KISS AS MY GRATITUDE...
PHEW...
H NO HANK YOU.
LUST -LUT UP
WHAT A WASTE.
SIR KNIGHT!
YOU'RE BLEEDING!
NO.
NO MATTER WHAT THE SITUATION, MUST GO BACK TO MY SOVEREIGN.
I'M NOT GIVING UP JUST YET
LET ME SEE YOUND!
PLEASE COME TO HER MAJESTY'S CASTLE! I WILL TEND TO YOUR WOUNDS

HOW SHOULD I OVERCOME THIS?
AAH, IF ONLY HILDEBRAND WAS HERE!
GOD, PLEASE SAVE ME!
WHO ARE YOU?
YOUR ENEMY
DIE!
AA!!
THIS GUY LOOKS REALLY WEAK.
ER, THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT!!
RUSH
RUSH
YOU CAN DO IT
MY LORD I TAUGHT YOU EVERYTHING.
HILDEBRAND
WE WERE ENJOYING OUR TRIP TOGETHER TOO.
WHERE DID HILDEBRAND GO?
LOOK THERE'S PREY
THEN THE HEATHEN'S MEN..
HEY, YOU!
HIS WEAPON AND ARMOR IS MADE OF GOLD.
HE ALSO HAS AN AMAZING HORSE.

!
YOU... HOW DARE YOU?
I CALLED FOR REINFORCEMENTS.
SAY YOUR PRAYERS.
WHEN I WANT HILDEBRAND'S HELP THE MOST, HE'S NOT BY MY SIDE.
BUT?
EVEN WHEN HE'S BY MY SIDE, ALL HE DOES IS GIVE ME AN EARFUL OR SCOLD ME.
HILDEBRAND, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT KIND OF DANGER I AM IN?
WHY DO YOU KEEP--
--TREATING ME LIKE A CHILD?
THE WOMEN TREAT ME LIKE A MAN BUT...
GEH!
I WON
HE GOT ME
AAH!
OH!
ALL RIGHT! NEXT!
WIN!

HE IS MY LIFE.
HE'S A LOT STRONGER THAN WE THOUGHT!
TAKE HIM ON FROM ALL SIDES!
HUH?
FIGHT ME FAIR AND SQUARE!
PHW
SURPRISED HIMSELF
HE JUST BREATHED FIRE!
HOT! HOT! HOT!
HE STILL TREATS ME LIKE A CHILD
ALTHOUGH I DID
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WAIT HERE"?
THIS IS REALLY PISSING ME OFF!
UGH!
AAAAA
EEEK
I'M A GROWN MAN
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
WAIT HERE!
SOMETHING MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED TO HIS MAJESTY
WHAT IS THAT NOISE?

HUFF HUFF
THIS IS A JOURNEY
IF THIS IS A JOURNEY, I'D RATHER STAY IN THE CASTLE!
NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND, MY LORD?
IT... IT'S OVER...
BY THE WAY, HILDEBRAND...
IT'S GOOD TO BE HONEST BUT...
THEY SHOULD CUT THEMSELVES AND SEE HOW MUCH IT ACTUALLY HURTS!
IF WOMEN ONLY LOVE THOSE WHO'VE GONE ON A JOURNEY...
THEN...
I WASN'T IDLING AROUND..
WHERE WERE YOU?
WHY WERE YOU IDLING AROUND WHILE I WAS BEING ATTACKED?
MY LORD!
I SHOULDN'T INTERFERE..
HIS MAJESTY IS POWERFUL WHEN HE'S ANGRY
THAT'S ACTUALLY AN AMAZING ABILITY
YOU DIDN'T THINK ANYTHING ABOUT THE EIRE?
MY LORD WAS FIGHTING SO VALIANTLY...
AAAAH!
HOW DARE YOU?!

!
NO, YOU GO ALONE.
I'M GOING BACK TO BERN!
I'M SURE YOU'LL BE FINE AS SOON AS YOU HAVE THE MAIDENS FEEL SORRY FOR YOU.
HE'S THE HEATHEN THAT WAS THREATENING QUEEN VIRGINAL.
I WAS DANCING WITH HIM
THIS GIANT
-WEREN'T ENJOYING YOUR TIME WITH A MAIDEN THEN ..?
YOU-
SIR KNIGHT
WHAT IS SHE DOING HERE?
HOW HONEST...
I LIKE TO DANCE TOO BUT ..
YES, I WAS.
WHAT?
WERE YOU DANCING AROUND?
WHILE YOU WERE DANCING I WAS FIGHTING DANGEROUS HEATHENS!
THIS ISN'T FAIR!
THEN LET'S HEAD TO QUEEN VIRGINAL'S CASTLE NOW

IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE SEEN IT...
WE USED TO BATH TOGETHER WHEN I WAS A CHILD
YOUR WARM BODY BRINGS BACK MEMORIES...
THE FONDEST MEMORIES...
YOUR BODY...
IF ONLY YOU WOULD...
EMBRACE ME WITH YOUR ARMS AGAIN...
WHAT AM I THINKING?
I'M NO LONGER A CHILD...
AH!
N... NO
ARE YOU HURT?
BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME...
UG...
ACTUALLY, I'M GLAD I DIDN'T FIGHT THIS GIANT
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE HERO
YOU'RE TOO HONEST, YOUR MAJESTY
SHOW ME YOUR WOUNDS. I'LL TEND TO THEM...
YEE HEE
IT'S NOTHING...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!

I'LL GO AHEAD AND LET HER MAJESTY KNOW YOU WILL BE COMING
I GIVE UP
AH
UM...
OH, I CANNOT BELIEVE YOU WERE SAVED...
YOUR MAJESTY!
BACK AT QUEEN VIRGINAL'S CASTLE
THEY ARE BOTH VALIANT AND SO HANDSOME..
!!
I WAS SAVED BY KING DIETRICH VON BERN AND HIS ADVISOR LORD HILDEBRAND
ONE IS WEARING GOLDEN ARMOR AND THE OTHER IS WEARING SILVER ARMOR.
W WHAT KIND OF GENTLEMEN WERE THEY?

BA-BUMP
I WANT TO...
SUCKLE IT...
AH
MY LORD?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THAT SHOULD DO IT
HILDEBRAND...

GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!
YOU WERE ALMOST A GONER
BUT YOU'LL BE FINE NOW
I CAME TO SLAY THE DRAGON BUT I FELL ASLEEP AND...
THAT'S WHEN THE DRAGON GOT ME
WHAT HAPPENED?
KING DIETRICH VON BERN WILL SLAY THE DRAGON!
MY LORD...
OHHH!
NOW YOU'VE MADE ME MAD...
BUT YOUR MAJESTY I THINK IT'S USELESS..
EVERYONE! PREPARE FOR THEIR ARRIVAL!
I MUST WELCOME THEM IN MY BEST DRESS! MAKE ME A FLOWER CROWN TOO!
IT HAS SOMEONE IN ITS MOUTH!
OH! IT'S A DRAGON!
BACK TO DIETRICH & HILDERRAND
YOU'RE IN MY WAY!
AH
DROP
HELP ME!
THOSE ARE THE WORDS OF A KING!
THAT IS VERY ADMIRABLE!
MY LORD, I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THOSE WORDS!
I COULDN'T HAVE ASKED FOR A BETTER OPPONENT!

I'M SURE HER FLOWER CROWN WAS DRIED FLOWERS BY THEN.
THE QUEEN WAS WAITING THE ENTIRE TIME, DRESSED IN HER BEST?
WHO KNOWS, IT TOOK US A FEW MONTHS..
WHEN DID YOU FINALLY VISIT THE QUEEN?
I THINK THE REASON WHY HIS MAJESTY DOESN'T HAVE ANY LUCK WITH WOMEN STEMS FROM THAT.
LUCK WITH WOMEN, EH...
LIKE THE LUCK OF BEING

OVER HERE, HILDERRAND!
I PRAY HE'S SAFE...
ANYHOW, WHERE COULD HIS MAJESTY BE...?

WELL IF THAT'S THE CASE..
I WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE THE HERO TO THE PEOPLE AT MY CASTLE.
W... WAIT!
WHAT ABOUT THE QUEEN?
ISN'T SHE WAITING FOR YOU GUYS?
WE WERE CAUGHT UP IN THAT ADVENTURE SO..

WIN!
WILL YOU COME TO MY CASTLE AS A TOKEN OF MY APPRECIATION?

WE KEPT GETTING SIDETRACKED...
WE GOT A LITTLE TOO GREEDY AS IT WAS HIS MAJESTY'S FIRST JOURNEY
SOON AFTER THAT WE WERE CAPTURED BY A GIANT, THEN WE FOUGHT A TRAVELING KNIGHT...

SO TAKING OFF IS A HABIT OF HIS...
WAIT FOR ME!!
HIS MAJESTY TOOK OFF WITHOUT KNOWING THE WAY AND GOT LOST...
BY THE TIME WE WERE ABLE TO GO SEE THE QUEEN...

OUR LORD IS VALIANT
THAT STORY IS NOW A LEGEND RIGHT?
ISN'T THE MAIN HERO CHARACTER IN SONGS OF PRAISE SUPPOSED TO BE VALIANT?
BUT GUYS...
I KNOW
THEY GET ALONG SO WELL.
H... HEY...
LEGENDS OF DIETRICH
I GOT SEPARATED FROM YOU GUYS SO I SLAYED A DRAGON WHILE I WAS WAITING
IT'S A BIG ONE ISN'T IT?
DO YOU LIKE IT?
MY LORD
THAT'S WHY I SAID IT WAS USELESS...
HE TOOK OFF ON A HORSE AND GOT LOST
HE MADE THE QUEEN WAIT UNTIL HER FLOWER CROWN TURNED INTO POTPOURRI
NORMALLY, SHOULDN'T IT GO LIKE "HE DEFEATED THE HEATHEN AND WAS PRAISED BY THE QUEEN"?
BUT LORD HILDEBRAND DEFEATED HIM RIGHT?
PLUS, ISN'T THE MAIN CHARACTER SUPPOSED TO DEFEAT THE STRONGEST ENEMY?
TAP
YUP
WELL DONE, MY LORD...

THAT'S RAD MANNERS
I'LL SHOW YOU RAD MANNERS.
GRAB
I STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN MY REWARD FROM SLAYING THAT DRAGON.
MY LORD...
JUST ACCEPT IT.
YOU'RE ALL GROWN UP AND YOU STILL WANT A REWARD?
AH...
A REWARD FOR ADULTS..
HIS MAJESTY AND LORD HILDERAND ARE INSEPARABLE.
TRUE..
SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT HERE.
I THINK IT'S FINE.
DOESN'T CARE FOR..
PRAISES FROM MAIDENS ANYWAY

NN..
AH.
AH.
MY LORD...
YES.
JUST YOUR...
I ONLY WANTED ONE THING.
THE END
WHY IS IT SO BAD TO GIVE ME WHAT I WANT THE MOST?
YOU MUSTN'T..
TOUCH
AH..
NOW LOOKING BACK I WANTED TO SUCKLE YOUR NIPPLE...
NOT BECAUSE I WAS A CHILD
BUT
I FOOLED MYSELF

TO PROTECT THIS PRINCE.
THE LATE KING BERN GAVE ME THE DUTY
A PRINCE BORN WITH THE BLESSING OF THE DRAGON.
I SHALL GIVE MY ALL.
CLENCH
..
MY BELOVED MEIS
—AND I SWORE TO BE BY HIS MAJESTY'S SIDE FOR
TIME HAS PASSED

ROSE OF THE RHINE

HMM...
YOU MUSTN'T, MY LORD!
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO HILDEBRAND.
TO MY KNOWLEDGE, SIEGENOT IS THE MOST POWERFUL GIANT.
...
MORE POWERFUL THAN I?

A SINFUL DREAM...
OUR HEARTS ARE HOPELESSLY APART...
I DREAM IN MY SLUMBER
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
MY BELOVED MEISTER

DIETRICH VON BERN
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO COME TO THIS FOREST
TAKE THIS!
I FINALLY CAUGHT YOU
DAMN IT! THESE BRANCHES ARE IN THE WAY
I CAN'T FIGHT HIM...
WHAT THE ?!
YOU'RE NOT ANSWERING MY QUESTION
HE'S KILLED OVER A HUNDRED KNIGHTS TO THIS DAY
SIGH, NOW HE'S BEING STUBBORN
IT WILL BE EMBARRASSING IF PEOPLE FOUND OUT THAT KING OF BERN BROUGHT HIS SITTER!
I WILL NOT
THEN AT LEAST, TAKE ME WITH YOU
ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU WISH?
AS KING, I MUST FIGHT TO PROTECT MY PEOPLE.
AS THE KING'S MEISTER...
AM I WRONG? HILDEBRAND...

ALONG WITH THE FAMED HILDEBRAND
BERN WILL BE MINE.
BUT IT'S OVER.
TORTURING BEAUTIFUL MEN IS A HOBBY OF MINE...
GHH!
I SAID IT'S OVER!
YOU'RE STILL GOING TO RESIST?
I WON'T LET YOU
THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR NOT LISTENING TO YOU.
DOES THE DEVIL LIVE INSIDE YOU?
ARH...
HOW COULD A FLAME LIKE THIS EXIST WITHIN YOU?
YOU CAN BREATNE FIRE?
KH...
THERE ARE TONS OF SPARES
YOU'VE DONE A NUMBER ON ME

YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY IN THE COLD.
KNOCK KNOCK
YOU'RE FREEZING...
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE DRESSED SO LIGHTLY
DAMN HIM...
IS IT SOMEONE YOU KNOW?
コン コン
ON... WHO COULD IT BE...?
I MUST BE "A GREAT KING" TO KEEP HIM AT BAY.
I KNOW MY UNCLE IS AFTER BERN.
FORGET HIM!
ARE YOU GOING ANYWHERE BOOK!
MY LORD, ARE YOU GOING TO VISIT THE MAIDEN AGAIN?
THE PERFECT MENTER.
YOUR UNCLE ERMENRIK, THE EMPEROR OF ROME IS NOT A MAN OF HONOR
THERE'S NO QUESTION THAT HE IS AFTER BERN
IS THIS THE TIME TO BE DOING SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
AND WHAT IF I AM?
SHUT UP! I CAN PROTECT MYSELF!
AT LEAST TAKE ME WITH YOU.
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO LEAVE AND GO SEE A MAIDEN BY YOURSELF

WHENEVER I MEET YOUR EYES...
YOU'RE CORNERING ME.
THE DRAGON IN ME GOES WILD
THIS IS HOW..
HILDEGRAM
I DO NOT FEAR ANY WOUNDS. DO NOT GET COMFORTABLE WITH AN IDLE LIFE.
YOU ASK SO MUCH OF ME!
BE HONEST AND RESPECTFUL TO WOMEN...
I MUST FIGHT VALIANTLY... WORSHIP THE LORD... AVOID EVIL...
I...
I FEAR I MAY NOT LIVE UP TO YOUR EXPECTATIONS.
WHEN I NOTICE...
YOU'RE ALWAYS STARING AT ME FROM AFAR, COLDLY.
AND YOU MUST JUDGE IF I AM A WORTHY "KING."
YOU STAY BY MY SIDE TO FULFILL YOUR DUTY AS THE "KING'S MEISTER."
I WONDER WHEN I STARTED TO GET ANNOYED WITH YOU.

SW
CHUCKLE.
WHY ARE YOU SO STRICT WITH ME?
BUT ALL MY COUSINS ARE PLAYING
I SPENT MY YOUTH AT MY UNCLE'S MENRIKY PALACE
I KNOW NOW IT WAS A PLOY TO RENDER ME USELESS.
THERE WAS DEBAUCHERY EVERYWHERE IN MY UNCLE'S PALACE
DO YOU HATE ME?
BUT AT THE TIME I DID NOT KNOW THAT
THE FALLING SNOW
IT'S AS LIKE YOUR SILVER HAIR
...

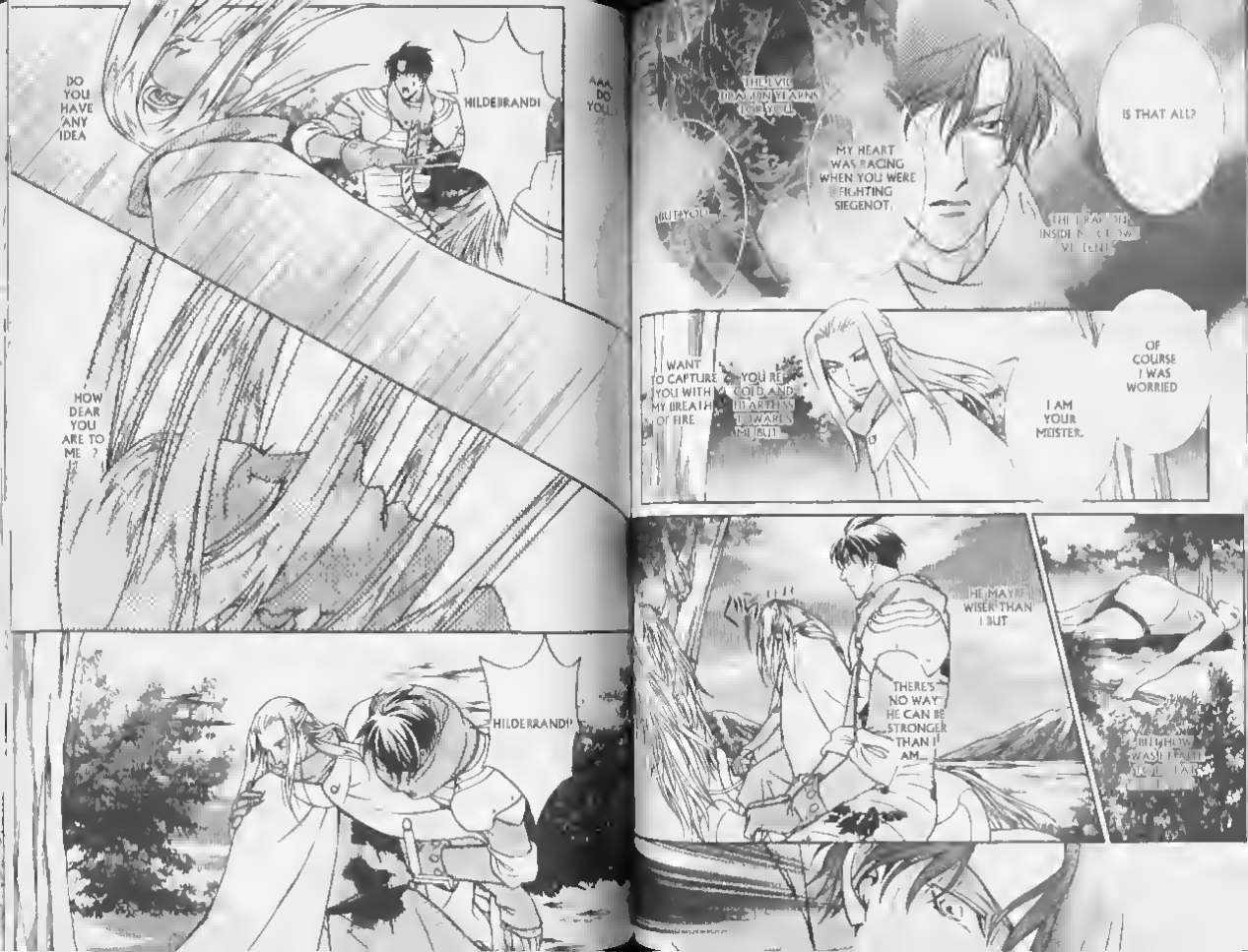
WHY DID YOU DO SUCH A THING...?
THANK GOD! YOU'RE ALIVE!
MY LORD
YOUR CAPE.
YOU'LL CATCH A COLD.
AH!
HILDEBRAND...
YOU BROUGHT THIS FOR ME...?

HUH? SOMETHING'S STUCK...
IF I'M LATE I WON'T HEAR THE END OF IT
"A KING'S DUTY SHOULD BE..."
IT'S MORNING ALREADY...
HILDEBRAND!

IT'S MY DUTY AS YOUR MEISTER.
UM... SORRY TO MAKE YOU COME ALL THIS WAY
SOMETIMES I WONDER...
TO GUIDE ME?
TO WATCH ME?
..WHY ARE YOU BY MY SIDE?
THE COUNTRY WILL FALL APART IF THE KING BECOMES ILL.
LET'S RETURN TO THE CASTLE.
BUT HILDEBRAND IS...
HILDEBRAND?
IS HE SPEAKING OF THE DRAGON...?
AN EVIL...
LURKS INSIDE...
IS THAT AN EVIL BEING?
THAT LIVES INSIDE ME?

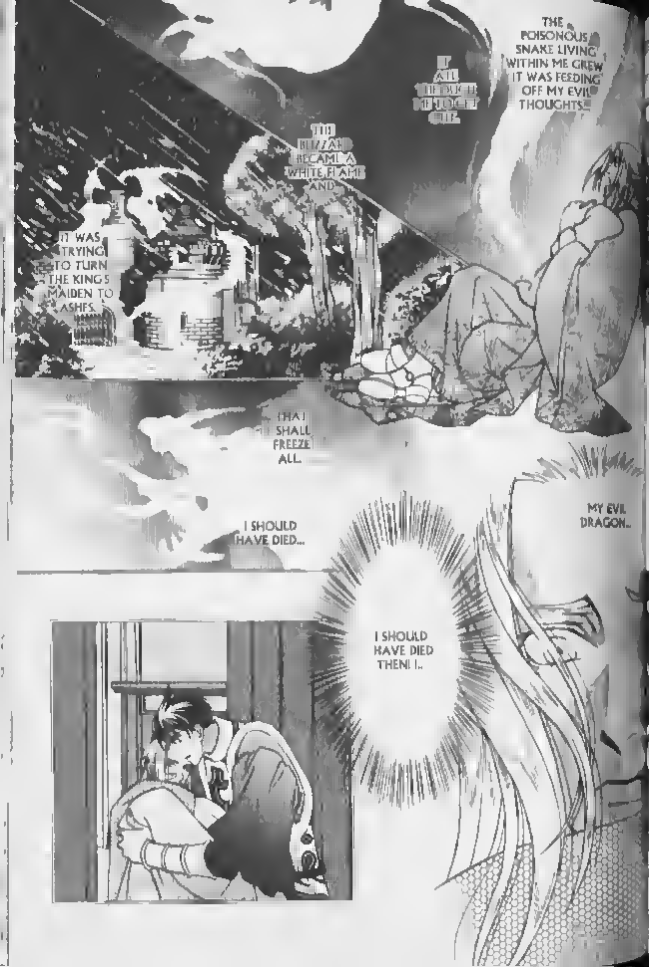
HILDEBRAND!
HIS MAJESTY IS ALIVE!
OH?
YOU'RE STILL GOING TO FIGHT?
OH GOD PLEASE PROTECT HILDEBRAND...
HILDEBRAND IS...
FIGHTING SIEGEN?! RIGHT NOW...
CLANK! CLANK!
THAT'S THE SOUND OF HILDEBRAND'S SWORD!
DID HE COME AFTER ME?
HILDEBRAND!

ぐいっ!
FOR A SECOND...
I THOUGHT HE EMBRACED... E... WAS IT MY IMAGINATION
SW
WE MUST IMMEDIATELY GO BACK TO BERN.
IT'S NOT GOOD TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME.
ズ!!
!!
GYAAA!
HURRY.
ANSWER MEI
HILDEBRAND, ARE YOU SAFE!?
!
I'M FINE.
SOMETHING TO HAPPEN TO YOU...
I WAS TERRIFIED. MORE THAN IF I WAS FIGHTING HIM.


DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA
HILDEBRANDT
AAA DO YOU...
HOW DEAR YOU ARE TO ME ?
HILDERRANDT
THE LIVE DRAGON YEARNS FOR YOU.
BUT YOU...
MY HEART WAS RACING WHEN YOU WERE FIGHTING SIEGENOT.
IS THAT ALL?
I WANT TO CAPTURE YOU WITH MY BREATH OF FIRE
YOU'RE COLD AND HEARTLESS WARRIOR AM I BUT
I AM YOUR MEISTER.
OF COURSE I WAS WORRIED
HE MAY BE WISER THAN I BUT
THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN BE STRONGER THAN I AM...
BUT HOW I WISH I HAD THE HEART

–EVEN IF I AM NO LONGER KING...?
WILL YOU CONTINUE TO STAY BY MY SIDE–
...BE RELEASED FROM MY DOUBTS?
HILDEBRAND...
ANSWER ME.

HILDEBRAND WON BECAUSE HE WAS FIGHTING BEYOND HIS LIMIT
HE WOULDN'T LISTEN AND SAID HE MUST GO ALONE...
HE MUST HAVE THOUGHT YOUR MAJESTY WAS DEAD
WE THOUGHT SO TOO...
YES.
HILDEBRAND SAID THAT?
THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN SOMETHING THAT HAS TORMENTED ME.
–HE WAS PLANNING TO FOLLOW YOU IN DEATH...
AND MOST LIKELY–


IT WAS TRYING TO TURN THE KING'S MAIDEN TO ASHES...
THE BLAZE BECAME A WHITE FLAME AND...
IT ALL BROKE THROUGH THE SEAL...
THE POISONOUS SNAKE LIVING WITHIN ME GREW. IT WAS FEEDING OFF MY EVIL THOUGHTS...
THAT SHALL FREEZE ALL.
I SHOULD HAVE DIED...
MY EVIL DRAGON...
I SHOULD HAVE DIED THEN! I..

HILDEBRAND!
..BRAND..
BUMP
I'M JUST AS TALL AS YOU NOW
I'M TALL
I JUST
OH HOW COULD I EVER HATE YOU?
DO YOU HATE ME?
I SAW IT
WAS I HALLUCINATING FROM THE COLD...
THAT NIGHT...

HILDEBRAND!!
HE STOPS BREATHING
NO!
HUFF
はぁっ!
YOU MUSTN'T LEAVE ME!
I WOULD HAPPILY EMBRACE DEATH WHEN THAT DAY FINALLY COMES.
YET I HAVEN'T FULFILLED THE DUTY I WAS GIVEN BY THE LATE KING...
A SINFUL DREAM... A WISH I YEARN FOR, EVEN IF IT WOULD RUIN ME
I WILL CONTINUE TO HIDE THAT POISONOUS SNAKE OF LOVE INSIDE ME
SOON HE WILL NO LONGER NEED ME
WHAT ARE OU STARING AT?
WATCH HIM
WE WILL SAY GOODBYE.
SOON ENOUGH

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
MUCH BETTER.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR MAJESTY IS TALKING ABOUT
DON'T LIE.
I'M AT MY WITS END WITH YOU
YES.
HKK
HILDEBRANDI
HE'S MOVING!
NO YOU...
I WISH..
YOU WOULD HAVE LET ME DIE...

YOU CAN'T DO THAT...
THAT'S NOT...
YOU'RE STILL RECOVERING STOP FIGHTING ME.
Y...
N... NO...
AA.
DON'T LOOK AT ME.
P... PLEASE... DON'T LOOK...
AH
W... WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MY LORD?
I AM GOING TO MAKE YOU MINE.

IT'S BEEN A LONG ROAD–
GOD, I THANK YOU.
TO HILDEBRAND
–BUT YOU FINALLY GUIDED ME...
I WON'T GO ANYWHERE ELSE.
CAN I STAY HERE WITH YOU?
... TELL ME...
TELL ME THAT I CAN!
I WISH I HAD DIED...
THAT'S WHY–
YOU'RE...

THIS IS ALSO HILDEBRAND'S WORK.
HUH? I THINK SOMEONE IS LOOKING FOR YOU, MY LORD
YOUR MAJESTY IS OF AGE.
IS YOUR MAJESTY GOING TO GET MARRIED?
YOUR MAJESTY?
I... AH...
OH, IT'S HILDEBRAND...

FORGIVE ME.
I WAS HUNGRY AFTER MY BATTLE WITH THE ENEMY KNIGHT
I CAN'T BELIEVE HIS MAJESTY WOULD STOP BY MY HOUSE!!
NO ONE CAN FIGHT YOUR MAJESTY AND WIN!
WE CAN LIVE IN PEACE BECAUSE YOU ARE FIGHTING OFF OUR ENEMIES. WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH
I'M SURE YOUR MAJESTY WILL BECOME A LEGENDARY HERO!
YOU SPEAK TOO HIGHLY OF ME. PLUS,
HE WAS A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT
I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO DEFEAT HIM

I'M HAPPY AS LONG AS YOU'RE WITH ME.
LOOKS LIKE HE WON'T BE NEEDING A WIFE ANYTIME SOON.
HILDEBRANDT
WHY DID I EVER THINK YOU WERE COLD?
THE DRAGON INSIDE ME IS YOURS.
YOU NEED ME? I AM FULFILLED.
...
MY LORD, YOU WERE VICTORIOUS.
ALLOW ME TO HUMBLY CONGRATULATE YOU, YOUR MAJESTY
AH.

HEY SHINYA, ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY HOME?
I JUST GOT OFF SCHOOL SO...
BROTHER.
I HAVE AN UMBRELLA
LET'S GO HOME TOGETHER THEN
HUH? IT'S STARTING TO RAIN

TALE OF A MIRAGI

THE END

THANKS FOR DINNER IT WAS GREAT
ガチャ
ガチャ
HERE.
THANKS.
YOU KNOW, THERE'S NO NEED TO WORK SO HARD
BROTHER, IF YOU HAVE ANY LAUNDRY, PLEASE PUT IT OUT

NOT EVEN REAL SIBLINGS ARE THAT CLOSE.
TALE OF A MIRAGE

WAITING FOR ME
HE WAS KNEELING BESIDE HIS FATHER'S BODY
TSK. WHAT A LAME JOB.
I HAVE TO STRIP THE DEAD OF THEIR BELONGINGS
I LIKE CLEANING AND DOING LAUNDRY
OH... OKAY
EH?
I WANT TO DO IT..
THE FIRST TIME I MET SHIHYA...
HE WAS WITH HIS FATHER WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE BECAUSE HE COULD NO LONGER PAY THE GROUP BACK THE MONEY HE OWED.
AND THAT HE WAS ONE OF THE "HOUSEHOLD ASSETS"
HE MUST HAVE ACCEPTED THE FACT THAT EVERYTHING IN THE HOUSE WOULD BE TAKEN AWAY.
AFTER I ORDERED HIM TO GET UP HE GRABBED A SMALL BUNDLE OF HIS BELONGINGS
AND QUIETLY FOLLOWED ME
THAT WAS THREE YEARS AGO...
...UPPOSED BE MY ...AI
THAT WAS...

YOU GUYS ARE PLANNING TO MAKE ME PAY FOR IT, AREN'T YOU?
COME ON, JUST A LITTLE BIT!
NO I..
MASAO LET'S GO
THERE ARE LOTS OF GOOD LOOKING GIRLS.
STOP TEASING ME
SHIN-CHAN TAKES SUCH GOOD CARE OF YOU A GIRL DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE.
OH, YOU'RE SO QUIET
WE KNOW!
IF YOU GUYS EVER LAY A HAND ON HIM, YOU'RE DEAD
I WANT TO BE TAKEN CARE BY SHINYA TOO!
I DON'T KNOW HOW I COULD EVER REPAY YOU..
HUH?
I TOOK HIM IN AS MY BROTHER...
HE DOESN'T ASK FOR ANYTHING AND NEVER SAYS ANYTHING SELFISH
THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT
AND HE TOOK OVER ALL THE HOUSEHOLD CHORES.
HE WORKS SO HARD TO THE POINT THAT I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM
NO
WHY DON'T YOU GO HANG OUT WITH A GIRL YOU LIKE FOR ONCE?
THIS IS THE LEAST I CAN DO FOR YOU..
THERE'S NO ONE LIKE THAT...

THE BOSS OF THAT GROUP HAS A THING FOR PRETTY BOYS
I'M SURE THE BOSS WILL BE HAPPY TO... HEAR THAT... BUT...
I'LL STAY IN THE GROUP IN EXCHANGE
HIS FATHER'S DEBT WAS SUBSTANTIAL. I DOUBT THE BOSS WILL LET HIM OFF THE HOOK...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M GOING TO TALK TO THE BOSS.
WOULDN'T THAT BE HARD FOR YOU?
LET ME KNOW IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED
YOU'LL BE STAYING WITH ME FOR AWHILE.

I CAN'T DRINK SO...
WANNA JOIN US NEXT TIME?
SORRY, I DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE.
YOU CAME HOME LATE LAST NIGHT
AT THE TIME, I THOUGHT I TRADED MY DREAMS FOR SHINYA BUT...
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO HIM?
IT'S SO I ACTED
HE OWED MONEY TO THE IWATA-GROUP AS WELL.
HIS FATHER OWED US MONEY
DO YOU THINK THAT'S CRUEL?
IF THE IWATA-GROUP GOT TO HIM BEFORE US, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE SAME.
HE'S A GOOD-LOOKING FELLOW. HE'LL PROBABLY BE TAKING CUSTOMERS.

THANK YOU...
HIC
HIC
BUT YOU'RE CRYING
IT... IT'S NOTHING...
WHAT'S WRONG?
HIC
...
THAT I HAVE TO WORK AT A STORE WHERE I HAVE TO SELL MYSELF
A GUY FROM THE IWATA-GROUP WAS SAYING..

BLUSH
...
HIDE
YOU MENDED YOUR SOCKS?
TAKING CARE OF HIS DRUNKEN OLD MAN BY HIMSELF
FROM A YOUNG AGE, HE WAS
HIS MOTHER LEFT, LEAVING HIM ALONE WITH HIS GAMBLING ADDICTED FATHER
POOR THING
AH..
I BOUGHT THEM FOR ME SO THEY MIGHT BE A LITTLE BIG BUT
THEY'RE BRAND NEW
HERE,
TOSS

THE WARMTH OF THE SUN..
IS THE DREAM I THOUGHT I THREW AWAY...
THIS...
THE...
WHAT IS HE...
WASHING SO HARD?
A MIRAGE?
IT LOOKED LIKE A MIRAGE WAS SURROUNDING SHINYA...
WAS IT MY IMAGINATION?
LIPSTICK DOESN'T COME OUT EASILY

TH.. THAT'S WHY..
I.. I KNOW I'LL PROBABLY HAVE DO THE SAME HERE TOO...
I KNOW I SHOULDN'T-
-GET USED TO BEING TREATED SO KINDLY BUT..
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO ANYWHERE.

N... NO YOU ALREADY GIVE ME MORE THAN ENOUGH...
AH
LET ME SEE.
YOU WANT TO BUY SOMETHING EXPENSIVE?
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU WANT MORE ALLOWANCE MONEY?
UM...
WOULD IT BE OKAY IF I GOT A JOB?
...!
CHECKBOOK
I'M SURE.
DO YOU THINK IT'LL LEAD TO ALL OUT WAR?
IT'S GETTING UGLY BETWEEN THE IWATA GROUP AND US.
OUR STUBBORN BOSS DOESN'T HELP EITHER.
THERE'S ALSO THAT TIE BETWEEN SHINYA AND IWATA-GROUP..
...
IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN AGAINST ANOTHER GROUP, YOU'D BE THE FIRST TO BE SENT TO FIGHT BECAUSE YOU'RE STRONG..
THAT'S WHAT THE GUYS IN THE GROUP WERE SAYING...
THAT'S WHY I
I HEARD YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO LEAVE THE GROUP BUT YOU STAYED IN EXCHANGE TO CLEAR MY FATHER'S DEBT
YOU BARELY SPENT WHAT I GIVEN YOU SO FAR.
B... BECAUSE...
LET'S LIGHTEN IT UP WITH SOME BEAUTIES TODAY
HUH?
I DON'T

SHINYA
YOU MUST BE COLD. YOU'RE FREEZING.
AH! BROTHER.
YOU BROUGHT ME AN UMBRELLA?
W... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
STOP IT!

IF SOMETHING...
EVER HAPPENED TO YOU
LIAR.
OF COURSE I'M THINKING ABOUT YOU..
JUST THINK ABOUT ME!
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT?
NO, ON RAINY DAYS..
STAY A LITTLE LONGER
IT'S STARTING TO RAIN...

HE'LL PROBABLY DO ANYTHING TO GET HIS HANDS ON HIM
SHINYA HAS TIES TO THE IWATA-GROUP AS WELL.
PLUS ANIMOSITY IS BREWING AGAINST THE IWATA GROUP!
IF THE BOSS OF THE IWATA-GROUP SEES SHINYA...
GET RID.. OF SHINYA..?
IF YOU EVER LOOK AT HIM THAT WAY, I WON'T FORGIVE YOU!
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE BOUGHT THE ONE ON SALE
NO, IT'S GOOD.
IT'S YOUR FAVORITE, GRILLED MACKEREL BUT...
YOU DON'T LIKE IT?
BROTHER...
BUT THAT'S YOURS.
HAVE THIS TOO!
GOOD.

ARE YOU OKAY?
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HER?
DO YOU HAVE ANY PLANS TO LET SHINYA GO?
WHY ARE YOU ASKING THIS SO SUDDENLY?
SHINYA IS DANGEROUS
...
HOW IS HE DANGEROUS?
IT'S UNPREDICTABLE WHAT HE'LL DO WHEN HE'S CORNERED.

THE IWATA GROUP PRACTICALLY KILLED MY FATHER.
DON'T BE FOOLISH!
BUT... MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING I COULD DO
BUT...
STEEL JAGUAR
BY SHINYA AND KAORU
WHY DID YOU DO THAT?
I HEARD YOU TOLD SOME OF THE GUYS TO ATTACK SHINYA
BROTHER, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.
THERE'S NO WAY... SHINYA IS DANGEROUS...
OH THAT
I WAS PRACTICING THROWING KNIVES.
SHINYA
THESE ARE KNIFE SCRATCHES.
YOU BETTER NOT GET INVOLVED!
I HEARD THINGS AREN'T GOING WELL WITH THE IWATA GROUP SO...
...
WHY WOULD YOU DO SUCH A THING...?

"I WOULD KILL ALL THOSE WHO GET IN OUR PATH..."
"I LOVE YOU SO MUCH..."
"SO WE CAN SPEND THE REST TOGETHER..."
"AND WAKE UP IN THE MORNING LIGHT..."
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HE'S NOT AS INNOCENT AS YOU THINK
DID YOU JUST REALIZE THIS? UNBELIEVABLE.
UH...
WHO WAS I ?
WHO WERE YOU LOOKING AT WHILE YOU WERE IN BED WITH ME?
STOP TRYING TO FOOL ME.
I WAS...
THAT CAN'T BE!
AH...
IF YOU EVER LOOK AT HIM THAT WAY, I WOULDN'T FORGIVE YOU!
THAT WAY

...
IF THAT'S THE CASE...
WHO KNOWS WHEN YOU'LL STRAY OFF THE PATH IF YOU STAY HERE?
I'M ALSO GLAD YOU'RE GETTING OUT OF THIS PLACE.
IT'S TOO LATE...
I'LL GO KILL HIM...
TELL ME!
WHO IS IT?
I CAN'T SAY

YOU CAN SEE IT IN HIS EYES THAT HE'S WANTING A MAN
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK.
SURE.
I WANT YOU TO FIND HIS MOTHER
...
THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE?
HIS MOTHER WAS EASY TO FIND
SHE REMARRIED AND LIVES A WELL-OFF LIFE

HEY, STOP STITCHING IT BACK TOGETHER.
IT WAS TOUCHING TO SEE HOW HE CHERISHED THEM.
HE WORE THOSE SOCKS UNTIL THEY WERE FALLING APART.
TIME MADE ME LOVE HIM EVEN MORE.
FOR A SHORT WHILE..
I HAD A HAPPY FAMILY.
BUT THIS WAS FOR THE BETTER.
EVERYTHING WAS A FLEETING DREAM.
MASA.
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO KNOW
I THOUGHT IT WAS FOR THE BEST THAT WE NO LONGER HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH EACH OTHER
-I NEVER WROTE BACK
SHINYA SENT ME LETTERS FREQUENTLY BUT
LEAVE!
DON'T EVER COME BACK HERE!
HE'S GONE...

I KNOW
ANTIQUES AREN'T THE ONLY THING THAT DON LIKES!
DON'T WORRY
THAT'S WHY...
MY STEPFATHER IS IN THE ANTIQUES BUSINESS SO...
MIRAGE..
THIS IS...
HATE...!

LONG TIME NO SEE, BROTHER.
YOU LOOK LIKE A RICH BOY FROM A PROPER FAMILY
THAT'S NOT...
NO, IT SUITS YOU.
THAT'S WHY... DON'T GET INVOLVED WITH THE YAKUZA.
HAVE YOU BEEN WELL?
YEAH
...
I KNOW YOU'RE DOING BUSINESS WITH THE IWATA GROUP!
...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THEY KILLED THE BOSS!
DAMN IT!
WAIT
WE HAVE TO AVENGE HIM!
IT WAS THE GUYS FROM THE IWATA GROUP!
DO YOU HATE ME? SHINYA...
IF THE IWATA-GROUP PRACTICALLY KILLED HIS FATHER WE'RE JUST AS GUILTY!
WHY DIDN'T I REALIZE
AND WE TOOK THAT AWAY FROM SHINYA...
I YEARNED FOR A WARM FAMILY...
PLUS, THE BOSS AND I MAY HAVE HAD DIFFERENT MOTHERS BUT...
WE WERE BROTHERS.
I'LL GO
AT LEAST WAIT UNTIL THE DON'S FUNERAL IS OVER
WE'LL THINK OF SOMETHING AFTERWARDS...
WAIT
IS THERE SOMEONE IN THIS GROUP THAT'S STRONGER THAN ME?
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO OUR GROUP IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO YOU TOO?
THOSE DAYS WE SPENT TOGETHER...

WH...
I KILLED HIM
WHY DID YOU DO SUCH A THING?
TO AVENGE YOUR FATHER?
DID HE DO SOMETHING TO YOU?
NO
BUT..
NOW
WHAT..?

I MUST AVENGE HIM
WE DIDN'T GET ALONG BUT HE WAS MY BROTHER
BROTHER
A FEW THINGS I REGRET...
ALTHOUGH THERE ARE STILL...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
...
SHINYA?
THE BOSS OF THE IWATA-GROUP..

I MUST SAVE HER! I MUST...
BROTHER...
SHINYA AS WELL!
THAT'S WHY
THE POLICE WILL PROBABLY THINK EXACTLY WHAT YOU JUST THOUGHT
THEY'LL THINK I KILLED HIM IN SELF-DEFENSE.
EVERYONE KNOWS THAT THE BOSS OF THE IWATA-GROUP KEPT TRYING TO SEDUCE ME.
I WANT YOU TO MAKE LOVE TO ME.
I WAS OVERCOME BY THE RISING MIRAGE...
PLEASE.
YOU'LL BE SAVING ME!
THEY WILL BE LENIENT WITH ME IF THEY THINK I WAS RAPED AND WENT TEMPORARILY INSANE.

ズ
BROTHER...
BROTHER.
BROTHER...
AH.

I'LL BE FINE.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
YOU'RE NO LONGER ABLE TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE.
YOU CAN'T GO BACK AND LIVE WITH YOUR MOTHER, RIGHT?
IF YOU KILLED HIM, YOU WOULD HAVE FACED A HEAVY SENTENCE.
SHINYA WAS ABLE TO GET OFF THAT EASILY BECAUSE "HE WAS RAPED" AND "KILLED IN SELF-DEFENSE"
I MISUNDERSTOOD SHINYA.
BOSS.
...
SHINYA DID IT FOR YOU...
HE HATES ME INSIDE...
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT?
H... HATE YOU?
YANK
THAT'S NOT TRUE! I..
YOU MAY HATE ME BUT YOU CAN DEAL FOR A WHILE!
JUST COME BACK.
...!

I DRAGGED YOU INTO IT...
THE MAN THAT WOMAN SPOKE ABOUT IN SHINYA'S EYES WAS ME.
WE BOTH HAD EACH OTHER IN OUR EYES.
THE MIRAGE WAS SHINYA'S LOVE TAKING SHAPE.
WERE WE SEEING THE SAME DREAM?
"SO WE CAN SPEND THE NIGHT TOGETHER AND WAKE IN THE MORNING LIGHT."
"I LOVE YOU SO MUCH I WOULD KILL ALL THOSE WHO GET IN OUR PATH..."
Y... YOU FOUND OUT..
HOW I TRULY FEEL...
AFTER THAT..
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO BE ABLE FACE YOU?

THOSE SOCKS!
THAT'S WHY...
I CAN'T STAY WITH YOU.
THAT MIRAGE..
I.. I HATE MYSELF..
THIS FEELING..
I COULDN'T KEEP IT HIDDEN NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRIED..
THAT WOMAN HIT ME BECAUSE SHE KNEW

ROSE OF THE RHINE

The crossovers of the epic poems, "The Songs of Nibelungs" and the "Sagas of Dietrich"

The "Sagas of Dietrich" is a hilarious I mean, engaging tale of the Great King Dietrich, Meister Hildebrand and other colorful figures. Surprisingly there are many crossovers of the "Sagas of Dietrich" and the tragic tales of "The Songs of Nibelung" The main characters of each respective epic, Dietrich Von Bern and Siegfried, appear in the other epic

As Dietrich's side of the tale was told in Rose of the Rhine, I'd like to talk about the crossovers with "The Songs of Nibelungs"

Dietrich appears in the latter half of the story At this point in the story, King Gunther of Burgundy (Kriemhild's brother) and his knight Hagen have killed poor Siegfried

Queen Kriemhild gets remarried to the King Etzel of Hungary (who is based off of King Attila, also known as Attila the Hun) and swears to take revenge against her brother and Hargen

During this time Dietrich was living in exile at King Etzel's court after his uncle, Ermanaric overtook Bern (But only for a short while)

Kriemhild lures Gunther and Hargen to Hungary Everyone in the castle is whispering to each other that it's Kriemhild's trap Only Dietrich tells them to not come to the castle

Heeding to Dietrich's advice Gunther and his Burgundian army arrive fully equipped Enraged, Kriemhild demands to know who ripped them off Dietrich does not hesitate and tells her it was him.

Dietrich is neither intimidated nor fazed by Kriemhild's murderous glares He is just way too cool!

Dietrich refuses to take part in the in the duel as he knew the rising tension between the Burgundians and Huns could spark with the littlest thing It's amazing how only Dietrich was able to notice this!

Hildebrand could no longer take seeing such good knights fall one after another. Hildebrand is definitely a caring man

I'm sure Dietrich grew up to be so great because of Hildebrand

Thus, the "The Songs of Nibelungs" reaches its conclusion because of Dietrich's merit I think they're a bit overdoing it in someone else's epic poem... (Laugh)

I'm currently listening to "The Valkyrie" from "The Ring of the Nibelung", Wagner's opera Looking back, what a great life I have. I discovered Wagner "The Song of Roland", "The Songs of Nibelungs" and now the "Sagas of Dietrich"

I used to be in love with Prince Siegfried when I was young so I kind of feel guilty because I think I had a little too much fun with his character

To Kriemhild's delight (and due to her scheming) a battle breaks out between the Huns and Burgundians in the great hall. King Etzel could only sit there in a daze, after seeing his (and Kriemhild's) son get killed by Hargen,

Kriemhild asks Dietrich for help, as her husband is practically useless. Also at the same time Gunther asks Dietrich for his help as well. What will he do? Dietrich refuses to help either of them, as the situation will only get worse and leaves the hall. Dietrich grabs Gunther's arm with one hand and grabs Kriemhild with the other and leaves the great hall. Is it really okay if he acts so cool and take such a big part in someone else's epic poem!?

I read "The Songs of Nibelungs" when I was a child and this part really confused me "Siegfried is supposed to be the Hero but who is this awesome guy who comes out of no where?"

After failing to get Dietrich on her side, Kriemhild asks Hildebrand for his help and he accepts

"I thought he didn't like Kriemhild?" but maybe he was just trying to stop the fighting or maybe he was worried about Dietrich's honor again!? The real reason Hildebrand agreed was so he could retrieve the great Knight Rudeger's body
He was slain by Gunther. Whatever the reason, I think Hildebrand is just "a good person." But as a result, Hildebrand gets injured from fighting Hargen

Dietrich gets word of Hildebrand's injuries and becomes enraged. Furious. Dietrich enters the battle and Gunther and Hargen are captured with ease

Dietrich may bow out of the duel but when it comes down to business, he is definitely the most powerful knight. And of course he loses his temper over Hildebrand

Kriemhild, trembling in joy from being able to have her revenge, decapitates Gunther and Hargen using Siegfried's sword, Balmung.

King Etzel is stunned (again) seeing how cruel Kriemhild is. (The poor guy, if you think about it)

That's when it happened!

Enraged, someone grabs a sword and slays Kriemhild!

The one who killed Kriemhild, thus putting an ending her revenge and the bloody battle was none other than Hildebrand!

The illustration below was cut in "My Beloved Meister" as the theme changed
Take a look when dietrand gets really angry ("Kids who don t listen"? Oh jeez)

I'LL SHRED MY CLOTHING AND CREATE A ROPE. PLEASE GIVE ME A MINUTE.
OKAY, I GET IT NOW GET ME OUT OF HERE.
NOW DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I SAID YOU MUSTN'T FIGHT SIEGENOT ALONE?
WHY DID YOU GO IN THIS HOLE!?
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS TO KIDS WHO DON'T LISTEN!

Author's thoughts

The "Sagas of Dietrich" is an epic poem that takes place in medieval Germany

When you think of epic poems, you think "chivalry" and "love"! Yes, like my beloved "The Song of Roland" and "The Songs of Nibelung"! That's what I expected when I started reading the "Sagas of Dietrich" but

I was deeply confused from the beginning of the book.

Firstly, this "hero" is getting yelled at from the get-go about how he's lazing around in his room / castle!

I also wrote about this part in the "First Adventure" chapter. He thinks an "Adventure" is a picnic and his warrior (Hildebrand) ends up defeating the first enemy. Then this command comes out of nowhere, "His Majesty is powerful when he's angry." Hnh!?

Then his audacious feelings about going on an adventure! "They (the maidens) should cut themselves and see how much it actually hurts!" Has there ever been another Hero that marches to his own tune like Dietrich in any other Medieval Epic?

But I guess Dietrich's "free spirit" is what draws people towards him

During the age of the Knights, they lived by a strict code. One of which is... "A knight must protect maidens with no matter what."

I secretly always thought, "Are knights idiots?"

You'll listen to whatever the maiden tells you to do? Can't they tell that some maidens are no good (like Kriemhild and Guinevere, from Legend of King Arthur) and it might just create a horrible situation? I understand it's the "code of knights" but jeez!

But then, there's Dietrich!

Dietrich, in response to Kriemhild's challenge says, "I didn't come all this way for a few roses. I came because you're all high and mighty and thought it would be great if we embarrass you!"

It's rather rude but to be able to say that with such a cool head during a time when customs where strictly followed is amazing. Ha it definitely "Great King" material, isn't he!?

Unlike "The Songs of Nibelung", the "Sagas of Dietrich" were told amongst the peasants. At the court, a bard would tell the tales to the knights and maidens (omitting details that might upset them) but in these poems, it reflects what the peasants were feeling.

Looking back at how Dietrich treated Kriemhild in the "Sagas of Dietrich" it's easy to see how the peasants felt back then. "The tragedy of Nibelung happened because Kriemhild was an idiot!"

The other great thing about the "Sagas of Dietrich" is Hildebrand, the most amazing Meister ever. Hildebrand always has his hand full teaching, scolding, nurturing and calming down Dietrich. Without him, Dietrich being such a free spirit, he may have gone astray from the code of knights.

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THE PROUD AND NOBLE LORD DIETRICH OF BERN AND HIS LOYAL MENTOR, HILDEBRAND ARE ON THEIR WAY TO RHINELAND. THERE, A TOURNAMENT WITH THE IMMORTAL SIEGFRIED AWAITS... WHEN TRAGEDY STRIKES, WHAT SHOCKING MOVE WILL DIETRICH MAKE?

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